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INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE  
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0016  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 9641  
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 0255  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J-3/J-5//  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC  
RUEUITH/ODC ANKARA TU//TCH//  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000256

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/24/2026  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [PINS](#) [IR](#) [TU](#)  
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON REPORTING IRAN TO UNSC

REF: A. STATE 6236

[1](#)B. ANKARA 7098  
[1](#)C. ANKARA 6546  
[1](#)D. ANKARA 0016

Classified By: DCM Nancy McEldowney, E.O. 12958, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) We delivered ref a demarche to Turkish MFA First Secretary Guven Begeg on 20 January. Begeg told us that

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Turkey shares USG concerns regarding the Iranian nuclear program and believes that Iranian nuclear weapons would pose a direct threat to Turkey's national security. He also stated that Turkish leaders are delivering strong messages to Iranian leaders in private meetings, including during Iranian FM Mottaki's recent visit to Ankara (REF B).

[1](#)2. (C) We pushed back hard, stressing the importance of the GOT delivering strong messages in public as well as in private. We also noted the inconsistencies in recent Turkish public statements regarding Iran. Begeg asserted that Turkey was delivering strong public messages, but we noted several recent counterexamples (e.g., the MFA's weak reaction to Iranian president Ahmadi-Nejad's initial statement calling for the destruction of Israel (Ref C)). Begeg responded that the Iranian nuclear weapons issue was a matter of national security and the institutions of the state would be making the decisions on this issue. He said it would not be a "party" decision (Comment: A reference to the governing pro-Islam Justice and Development Party (AKP). End comment.)

[1](#)3. (C) Comment: Begeg's comments reflect the general concern within institutions of the state that follow this issue closely. Unfortunately, those not as close to the issue do not seem to have the same sense of urgency. Rectifying this was a major rationale for our previous request that the USG send a high-level interagency team of experts to brief Turkish leaders on the Iranian nuclear issue (REF D). End Comment.  
WILSON